

PLANNING, ZONING & CODES

705 W. University Avenue, Ted A. Ardoin City-Parish Council Auditorium

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

*Immediately following the 5:30 Legal Liaison Briefing

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ***Present***-Bobby Badeaux-District 1; Dale Bourgeois-District 2; Christopher J. William, Ph.D.-District 3; Lenwood Broussard-District 5; Bruce Conque-District 6; Marc Mouton-District 7; Rob Stevenson-District 8

Absent- Louis C. Benjamin, Jr.-District 4; Randy Menard-District 9

ADMINISTRATION: *Present*-Dee Stanley (CAO), Pat Ottinger (Legal Counsel), Becky Lalumia (Chief Financial Officer), Eleanor Bouy (PZC Director)

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(281) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Councilmember Bruce Conque called the Planning, Zoning & Codes Briefing of May 10, 2005 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(282) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Discuss O-125-2005, An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council amending the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Case No. ZON2005-011 Sign Height Text Change, so as to limit the height of signs in all zoning districts in the City of Lafayette.

Bouy explained that this is a straightforward text change. It is simply to limit the height of on-site, freestanding signs at individual business sites to 30 feet in all the zoning districts in the City of Lafayette. B-1-0 is the only zoning district in Lafayette, at present, which limits sign height. The Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended this ordinance for Council approval and it will appear before the Council for final vote on May 24, 2005.

Broussard stated his disappointment in the brief presentation by the Director; especially since the sign companies were notified of the meeting. He also questioned several of the sign companies, who were sent notice, since the ordinance specifically addresses sign height. He then asked if staff or the Council recommended the 30-foot height requirement. Bouy answered the 30-foot requirement was recommended by Councilmember Williams. Upon further questioning by Broussard, Bouy explained that an existing 120-foot sign would be grandfathered in. If the sign was changed out at a later date then it would have to be lowered to 30 feet. Jim Parker, Zoning Coordinator, reported that several cities were researched regarding sign height. Signs varied along interstates from 100 feet and down. Several had different sign heights in different zones. Broussard opined that it would be very difficult to get businesses to locate here if the sign height was set at 30 feet. Stanley agreed that sign owners should be in attendance so that

the Council can know how this is going to impact their livelihood and to obtain their expertise on how this will affect this community. Broussard concurred.

Bourgeois recommended that PZC look into adjusting the sign heights according to zones, that sign height be a requirement in the permitting process and that Bouy use visuals of existing signs in her next presentation on sign height.

Conque recommended the establishment of a separate height restriction for signage within a set distance of a major highway (i.e., interstate, four-lane roadway such as US 90). The designation would have to be very specific. Bouy agreed but stated any text change to the Zoning Ordinance needs a review and recommendation of the Planning Commission to the Lafayette City-Parish Council. She then offered that if all changes were made and brought back to the Planning Commission, the ordinance could be presented to the Council in July.

Stevenson took issue with the fact a non-elective body, not answerable to the people, was going to set policy. If the director felt that the Council could not set policy then a discussion was needed. Williams reminded that the instrument itself would not change and amendments would be presented to the Council in July for debate.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(TAPE 2)(SIDE B)(705) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Comments from the public regarding the above listed item.

Dewey Boudreaux urged the Council to take their time with this ordinance and offered reference material to help create a sign and how to create a good ordinance, such as Sign Line Magazine and the Sign Source Handbook.

Ken Stelly stated he would wait for the Planning Commission recommendations. At that time he will have some issues to discuss.

Williams asked Stelly for instances where ordinances, such as this one, have worked. He gave a scenario where Stelly worked in a community but was still able to adapt to the point of not having a fiscal impact on his business. He requested that Stelly's comments be sent in writing or given at a Planning Commission Meeting or Council Meeting.

Nancy Broussard signed in to speak but had left the meeting.

(TAPE 3)(SIDE A)(161) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Adjourn.